

**EM SSAB CHAIRS**  
**Bi-Monthly Conference Call**  
**December 18, 2012**

**Participants**

<i>Board</i>	<i>Chairs/Representatives</i>	<i>Site Staff</i>
Hanford	Steve Hudson, Shelley Cimon	Tiffany Nguyen
Idaho	Willie Preacher	Peggy Hinman, Lori McNamara
Nevada	Kathleen Bienenstein, Donna Hruska	Kelly Snyder, Barb Ulmer, Cindy Lockwood
Northern New Mexico	Carlos Valdez	William Alexander
Oak Ridge	David Martin	Dave Adler, Melyssa Noe, Spencer Gross, Pete Osborne
Paducah	Ben Peterson	
Portsmouth	Will Henderson	Rick Greene, Greg Simonton, Julie Galloway
Savannah River	Harold Simon	Ashley Whitaker

**DOE-HQ Representatives**

EM-3.2	Catherine Alexander, Melissa Nielson, Michelle Hudson, Elizabeth Schmitt, Elizabeth Maksymonko, Alexandra Gilliland
EM-60	Terry Tyborowski, Steve Trischman

**Opening Remarks**

Ms. Catherine Alexander, Designated Federal Officer for the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), called the meeting to order.

**Budget Update**

Ms. Terry Tyborowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget, provided a status update on EM's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 budget and FY 2014 budget request. Documents containing information on the FY 2013 budget request may be found at <http://www.em.doe.gov/Pages/budgetdocs.aspx>.

Ms. Tyborowski briefly reviewed the ongoing discussions associated with the "fiscal cliff" and sequestration levels set to go into effect on January 1, 2013. There was hope that Congress would have a plan for the future by this date, but that has not yet materialized. In the absence of such a plan, Ms. Tyborowski described two possible funding scenarios, drawn from discussions that are occurring in Congress.

The first scenario is that there is still time for Congress and the White House to draft legislation and avert the "fiscal cliff." December 27<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for a firm agreement on the budget.

The second scenario is that Congress may not pass legislation before January 1, and sequestration could take effect. A modified version of this scenario is that Congress could pass

legislation shortly before it convenes on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, or it could pass a temporary bill between now and March to delay tax increases and spending cuts required by the sequestration.

A debate is occurring as to whether budget decisions should be made by the current lame duck Congress, or if the decisions should be delayed until the newly elected Congressional members take office in 2013. This debate may encourage Congress to vote to delay the sequestration deadline.

If sequestration is delayed, the current continuing resolution (CR) will extend until March 26, 2013. If Congress waits until 2013 to decide on the FY 2013 budget, the current bills that already have been marked up will likely be discarded and a full-year CR will be utilized.

EM is waiting for the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) pass-back on the agency's FY 2014 budget request. Because of the uncertainty of the FY 2013 budget, OMB does not yet know the FY 2014 budget target. EM has been told not to expect OMB's response until after the New Year.

Mr. Carlos Valdez from the Northern New Mexico CAB (NNMCAB) asked if DOE has researched how sequestration may affect sites around the country.

Ms. Tyborowski said this has not been researched on an individual site level, but the cash level at the sites is very close to the likely sequestration level.

### **Strategic Communications Planning Tool Update**

Mr. Steve Trischman, Deputy Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Analysis, provided an explanation and demonstration of the new EM Strategic Communications Planning Tool through a webinar format. He demonstrated the tool after explaining its creation and potential uses for the sites and stakeholders.

Mr. Trischman explained that EM is currently facing out-year budget planning challenges and potential shortfalls. In the next five years, the requirement for EM's estimated costs is around \$8 billion per year, but the funding targets from OMB are around \$5-6 billion. Therefore, there is an over-target-gap of about \$14-\$29 billion over the five years, which must be taken into account when planning out-year budgets.

To help work through the planning challenges, the Office of Strategic Planning and Analysis recently developed revised budget scenarios that account for flatter funding targets. Along with those scenarios, the office created a visualization tool that will allow DOE sites and stakeholders to explore a complex array of EM program alternatives and how they would affect the sites and the future of cleanup across the country.

The simulation tool is designed to illustrate the impacts of tough choices that will have to be made and to engage stakeholders in a more comprehensive fashion on high-level planning assumptions. Users are able to select from a menu of site-specific strategic options that would allow EM to operate within a given budget target. The tool allows users to see the estimated impact of their choices on regulatory milestones, cleanup costs, schedules, and other factors

across the complex. Mr. Trischman cautioned that it is not a detailed budget decision-making tool, and estimated costs do not reflect Departmental decisions. He also added that the Chairs' feedback is welcomed to help further refine the tool.

### **Spring Chairs' Meeting**

Mr. Steve Hudson, Chair of the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB), reviewed the draft agenda for the April 24-25, 2013, EM SSAB Chairs' Meeting. The meeting will be preceded by a tour of the Hanford site on April 23.

Much of the Chairs' meeting agenda will be similar to previous meetings and include presentations on the EM budget and waste disposition updates. In the afternoon of April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Chairs will hold a round table to discuss how the local boards reach out to stakeholders.

Mr. Willie Preacher, Vice Chair of the Idaho National Laboratory Citizens' Advisory Board (INL CAB), requested that a representative from the tribes in the area give a short presentation of cultural aspects of Hanford, as has been done for past Hanford site tours. Mr. Hudson agreed that it was a good idea and believed it should be possible to fit into the agenda.

Ms. Alexander requested suggestions for DOE-HQ presentation topics at the Chairs' meeting. These ideas may be sent via email to Ms. Alexander and Mr. Hudson.

Ms. Shelley Cimon from the HAB expressed an interest in learning more about the Science and Technology Road Map, including how it is currently being implemented and how it has changed as a living document within DOE. She also stated she would like to learn more about DOE Order 435.1.

### **Around the Complex**

#### Portsmouth SSAB – Will Henderson

- The Portsmouth SSAB is working on a recycling and waste disposition recommendation to fund research and development programs at the site. More information will be shared as the recommendation is further developed.

#### Savannah River Site CAB – Harold Simon

- The four draft recommendations developed during the October 2012 EM SSAB Chairs' Meeting were approved by the SRS CAB.
- Dr. Don Bridges was reelected Chair of the SRS CAB and Harold Simon was re-elected Vice Chair at the October SRS CAB meeting.

#### Hanford Advisory Board – Steve Hudson

- Mr. Hudson was elected new Chair and Ms. Susan Leckband was elected interim Vice Chair at the November HAB full board meeting.
- A leak was discovered in the inner tank of the AY-102 double-shell tank, the oldest of the double-shell tanks at the Hanford site. This created a large amount of public interest. In response, the Hanford site released information about the leak, including easy-to-

understand reports and photographs. The HAB also produced Advice # 263 on the need for more double-shell tanks with better structural integrity.

- Another important development at Hanford was the publication of the final Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which will serve as the foundation of future decisions in the cleanup process at Hanford. The EIS has been in development for 10 years with many public meetings. Though it is a very large and complex document, there are additional documents online that summarize well the EIS in layman's terms.
- The HAB Executive Committee issued a white paper that discusses the primary values the HAB utilizes while creating advice. This document is also available on the HAB's website.

#### Idaho National Laboratory EM CAB – Willie Preacher

- The INL CAB is concerned with receiving adequate funding to complete cleanup of the site and meet the milestones outlined in Idaho's settlement agreement with DOE. Cleanup at Idaho may slow due to current budget challenges.
- The startup of the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) in June encountered a setback because of problems with filters that are still being addressed. Because of complications, Idaho will not meet the federal agreement milestone at the end of December. However, the process as a whole and technology development will continue to be researched to ensure success of sodium bearing waste treatment at the site.
- The INL CAB is exploring ways to improve its outreach to communities surrounding the site. Members have been speaking with people in the community to discover what they know about cleanup of waste at Idaho and what additional information they would like to have available to understand the site's complexities.

#### Nevada SSAB – Kathy Bienenstein

- New board members started October 1<sup>st</sup> and received a tour of site in November to become better educated about EM's mission at the Nevada National Security Site.

#### Oak Ridge SSAB – David Martin

- The four recommendations developed during the October 2012 EM SSAB Chairs' Meeting were unanimously approved by the ORSSAB.
- The ORSSAB's Stewardship Committee is working with DOE to create a fact sheet for site transition processes, specifically for EM sites with ongoing DOE missions.
- Some of Oak Ridge's U-233 will be shipped to Nevada in early 2013.
- The ORSSAB's Environmental Management Committee received a briefing in November on groundwater strategy development workshops that EM, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation will be participating in within the first few months of 2013. This consists of four workshops, which will include different aspects of monitoring groundwater on the Oak Ridge Reservation. A scientist from U.S. Geological Survey has been asked to sit in on the workshop and report to the ORSSAB on the progress of these workshops.

#### Northern New Mexico CAB – Carlos Valdez

- During the December 4 full board meeting, the NNM CAB did not have quorum, so they could not vote on draft recommendations from the October 2012 Chairs' Meeting. The board will vote on the four recommendations during its January meeting.
- The NNM CAB received DOE-EM's response to the recommendation 2012-02, on expanding the scope of the NNM CAB's mission to include evaluation of utilization of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The recommendation and response may be viewed on the NNM CAB website.

#### Paducah CAB – Ben Peterson

- Ralph Young was reelected Chair and Ben Peterson was elected Vice Chair at the October full board meeting. The Paducah CAB also approved all four recommendations from October 2012 Chairs' Meeting.
- The Paducah CAB is looking into waste disposal options issues at the site, including decisions such as keeping the waste on-site or shipping it off site, and if it is shipped, to which locations.

#### **Closing Remarks**

Ms. Alexander thanked the participants for their time and adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm EST.

The next bi-monthly Chairs call is scheduled for February 19, 2012.